

## Summer House Children's Centre

### What?

Nottinghamshire County Council's (NCC) Early Childhood Service recently carried out a community consultation to gather views from local families and workers on possible changes to the use of Summer House Central Children's Centre building.

*"Thank you to everyone who took part."*

### Why?

Nottinghamshire County Council is developing Family Hubs for families with children aged 0-19 and young people up to the age of 24 if they have Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and using some Children's Centre buildings for this purpose.

Whenever any changes to Children's Centre buildings are considered, the County Council has a "duty to consult" with the local community to find out their views.

### When and Where?

The consultation took place during May and June 2022, links to the survey were advertised on the Ashfield Children's Centre and Families Information Service Facebook pages. Details were also shared with local Early Years Providers, Schools, Healthy Families Teams, Midwifery Teams, Ashfield District Council, Sherwood Forest Hospital Trust, Sutton In Ashfield Library and other local support organisations and the voluntary sector. Hard copies of the survey were also made available. Support to promote and complete the survey was provided by the Children's Centre Service, Youth Service and Healthy Families Teams. A specific questionnaire was produced for young people.

### Who?

Multiple people shared their feedback including parents, carers, partners and professionals. A total of 146 people responded to the survey, though when provided the opportunity to share in what capacity they were being involved, some people ticked more than one category which meant that we received 195 responses. Here is an overview of who completed the survey:

- 128 of responses were from parents/carers and partners.
- 67 people identified as professionals/volunteers working with children and young people.
- 22 young people completed the young people's questionnaire.

### What was said by these people?

- **Most parents and stakeholders** (82%) said they would prefer the Summer House Children's Centre building to become a Family Hub.
- 45% of **Young People** said they would prefer the building to be a Family Hub.

*Would benefit the whole community as all professionals will be under one roof. Would eventually become a place known within the community as the place to go for a whole approach to aid supporting families and their children.*

- **Most parents and stakeholders** said they would find child development, play and early learning sessions, parenting groups, maternity clinics, appointments and parent education classes to be most useful if they were made available at the Family Hub.

*“I think it sounds a good idea and now having a new baby I will be using services more”*

*“Would be good to have a Family Hub for support after children turn 5 ”*

- Access to clinics and appointments with the Healthy Families Team plus Speech, Language and Communication support were also felt to be useful.

*“Families have better, more sustainable outcomes when support is provided as preventative and as early as possible in a joined-up approach”*

- **Young people** would like to receive help from a Young Person’s Centre, and would benefit from receiving support with learning, training, apprenticeships and jobs.

### The Location of the Family Hub Main site

- Despite the majority of responses stating that a Family Hub is needed in the area, we received responses that told us the Summerhouse Children’s Centre building is not in the best location in Sutton in Ashfield.

*A central access point for all age groups would be a great asset for the area. However, the location needs to be central and as accessible as possible for residents.*

*A better location would be somewhere central which already has footfall from all the age groups (0 - 19) such as the library or leisure centre.*

### What do people want to be considered in future plans?

- Family Hubs to improve local help, advice and support for children and families with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- Family Hubs to be easily accessible and not too far to get to.
- To give further thought into the location and parking availability.
- Additional support, not at the expense of what’s already delivered or on current staff levels.

### What next?

Thank you for your comments, they have given us lots to think about. We will be sharing the findings with local politicians and seek their support to do more work in Sutton in Ashfield to identify the best location for a Family Hub in the area.

**Next steps:** We will work with partners, parents and young people to progress Family Hub plans in Sutton in Ashfield. 60 adults and 1 young person consented to be involved in the shaping of the local Family Hub. We look forward to working with them.

If you would like further information, please contact [earlychildhoodservices@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:earlychildhoodservices@nottsc.gov.uk)